



California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS FOR VETERANS

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NEWS FROM THE VETERANS HOME OF CALIFORNIA IN YOUNTVILLE

In Memory of Larry Sterling Lattman April 8, 1935 - January 14, 2006

Larry Lattman came to the Veterans Home of California, at Yountville, on April 24, 1998 and quickly became one of the Home's greatest advocates and spokesmen. Beginning in the Public Affairs Office as a tour guide, he mastered the history of the Home and it's unique community of "Veterans Helping Veterans," and brought it to life for visitors. A widely read student of military history, he had a knack for seeking out Home Members who had participated in various military operations and getting them to tell their story to others, and to the media. After establishing himself as the public "face and voice" of the Home, Larry turned his attention to it's internal affairs when asked by other members to run for the office of Chairman of the Allied Council. His winning personality and genuine caring earned him two terms in office, during which he forged strong bonds of trust and mutual respect with the Members, the Home's Administration, the Napa Valley Community, and elected leaders in Sacramento and Washington.

Larry was a healer, a builder, and a leader who understood what it was to be a veteran, and how to get things done for a noble cause. He was the first Veterans Home member to be appointed as a full, voting member of the California Veterans Board, the advisory body that sets the State's policy on veterans issues. After stepping down as Chairman of the Allied Council, Larry remained active as the Council's Legislative Liaison, and served as a member of the National Legislative Committee of The American Legion. He was also a member of a number of other veterans' organizations including the Jewish War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps League, Navy League, and AMVETS.

Born in Los Angeles, Larry attended Hollywood High School, and served during the Korean War in the US Army with valor and distinction. He served with the Israeli army as a small arms specialist, and lived in Israel until 1958. After leaving Israel, he went to Mexico, where he owned and operated a jungle cruise in Mazatlan for seven years as "Jungle Jim." He became well known internationally by such celebrities as David Brinkley and Robert Mitchum whom he met, charmed, and befriended as tourists in Mazatlan. After the loss of his left arm in an accident in 1968, he became a tireless advocate to help others by sharing the creative ways he invented to cope with living with a disability, including a set of shears that he hoped one day would be issued to every amputee. His two beloved sisters, Darlene Lattman of Agoura Hills, California and Rosalyn Stock of Lincoln, California and their families survive him.

Larry Lattman was laid to rest with his comrades in the Veterans Home Cemetery today. A "Celebration of Life" ceremony honoring his colorful life and his impact on so many others was held in conjunction with his burial service. Larry will be remembered for many things, but above all as a patriot who served his country well, and took care of his comrades until his final day.

Note to editors: This News For Veterans and previous CDVA News For Veterans are available on our website

at www.cdva.ca.gov and via e-mail from jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov